

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EB/OF/FPD:RSSIMPSON:JS

APPROVED BY EB/ORF:JLKATZ

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P 040011Z APR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR

SUBJECT: US/CANADIAN TALKS ON LIVESTOCK AND MEAT

1. ON APRIL 2 CANADIAN MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE EUGENE WHELAN LED A DELEGATION TO WASHINGTON TO MEET WITH U.S. AGRICULTURE SECRETARY BUTZ AND US OFFICIALS ON BILATERAL TRADE IN LIVESTOCK AND MEAT. THE DISCUSSION FOCUSED ON CANADIAN GLOBAL QUOTAS ON CATTLE (WHICH AFFECT ONLY US TRADE) AND BEEF (WHICH AFFECTS PRIMARILY AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND AND THE US), AND US RETALIATORY QUOTAS ON CANADIAN CATTLE, SWINE, BEEF AND PORK.

2. MEETING RESULTED IN RECOGNITION THAT US AND CANADIAN LIVESTOCK PRICES HAD CONVERGED IN RECENT WEEKS, PROVIDING NEW OPPORTUNITY TO CONSIDER LIBERALIZATION OF BILATERAL QUOTAS. AFTER LENGTHY DISCUSSION, AGREEMENT WAS REACHED THAT OFFICIALS FROM BOTH SIDES WOULD GET TOGETHER IN
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ABOUT TWO WEEKS TO DRAW UP PACKAGE AGREEMENT FOR CONSIDER-

ATION BY BOTH GOVERNMENTS. MAJOR ELEMENTS FOR CONSIDER-
ATION WOULD BE:

--LIBERALIZATION OR REMOVAL BY THE US OF QUOTAS ON SWINE,
PORK AND LIVE CATTLE, WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON RESUMPTION
OF CANADIAN EXPORTS OF EXOTIC CROSSBRED BREEDING CATTLE
(F-1 CROSSES). US QUOTAS ON FRESH, CHILLED AND FROZEN
BEEF AND VEAL WOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED BECAUSE THE US WAS
IN ADVANCED STAGE OF NEGOTIATING VOLUNTARY EXPORT
RESTRAINT PROGRAM WITH OTHER SUPPLYING COUNTRIES UNDER
ASSUMPTION THAT IMPORTS FROM CANADA WOULD BE AT QUOTA
LEVEL OF 17 MILLION POUNDS DURING CY-1975.

--ENLARGEMENT OR REMOVAL BY CANADA OF QUOTAS ON LIVE CATTLE
AND/OR BEEF AND VEAL.

3. NO FIRM DATE SET FOR MEETING US/CANADIAN OFFICIALS.
US WILLING TO MEET AT ANY TIME AT CANADIAN INITIATIVE.

4. FOR WELLINGTON, CANBERRA. IF ASKED, YOU MAY INDICATE
THAT US/CANADIAN AGREEMENT TO TRY TO REDUCE BILATERAL
RESTRICTIONS ON NON-BEEF AND VEAL ITEMS (I.E., ITEMS NOT
SUBJECT US MEAT IMPORT LAW) DOES NOT INCLUDE POSSIBLE US
LIBERALIZATION OF BEEF IMPORTS FROM CANADA, WHICH SUBJECT
WAS SET ASIDE IN APRIL 2 DISCUSSIONS. INGERSOLL

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